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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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I HAVE judged it proper to poſtpone politics to another week, that I may oblige my readers with a piece of ſcandal, or whatever elſe they may pleaſe to call it, which has but juſt tranſpired, and which will quickly engage the converſation of all the beſt families in town and country. Thoſe who are unacquainted with the parties concerned, will I hope excuſe me for publiſhing only the initial letters of their names, or ſometimes no letters at all; their high rank, and the honourable offices they bear, demanding from me a little more complaiſance than I may probably ſhew to meaner perſons. At the ſame time I ſhould be ſorry to have it thought, that

that my tenderneſs upon this occaſion aroſe from any ſelfiſh conſiderations of the conſequences that might enſue: the ſword of a man of quality is no longer than that of another man, nor for any thing I have obſerved, is he a jot more dextrous at drawing a trigger. My moderation proceeds from the great reſpect which is due from perſons in humble ſituations to men of high and illuſtrious birth: though at the ſame time I muſt take the liberty of declaring, that one or two ſtories more of the ſame nature with what I am now going to relate, will entirely cancel my regards, and encline me to treat them with all the freedom of an equal.

EVERYBODY knows, at leaſt everybody in genteel life, that the match between lord *** and miſs G—— was brought about by the old earl, and the young lady's aunt; at whoſe houſe my lord unfortunately ſaw, and fell deſperately in love with miſs L——, who was a diſtant relation of the aunt, and who happened to be there upon a viſit, at the time of his lordſhip's courtſhip to the neice. The character of miſs L—— is too notorious to require a place in this narative; though I muſt do her the juſtice to own, that I believe every art to undo a woman was practiſed upon her, before ſhe was prevailed upon to give up her honour to a man, whom ſhe knew to be the deſtined huſband of her moſt intimate friend.

THOSE who knew of the affair between my lord and miſs L——, endeavoured by every poſſible method to diſſuade miſs G—— from the match; and indeed if that unfortunate young lady had not preferred a title to happineſs, ſhe had treated his lordſhip as he deſerved, from a thorough conviction that he had already beſtowed his affections upon miſs L——. But a union of hearts is by no means neceſſary in the marriages of the great.

My

My lord and the old earl ſaw a thouſand charms in miſs G——'s large fortune; and the young lady and her aunt ſaw every thing in a title that could be wiſhed for in the married ſtate. The ceremony was performed ſoon after at the earl's houſe; and the young couple, though perfectly indifferent to each other, conducted themſelves ſo prudently in all companies, that thoſe who did not know them intimately, believed them to be very happy people.

THE old earl dying ſoon after, my lord ſucceeded to the eſtate and title of ***, and lived with his lady in all the magnificence and ſplendor which his large income could afford. His lordſhip had a conſiderable mortgage on the eſtate of Sir O— S—; and it was under pretence of ſettling ſome affairs with that gentleman, at his brother's near St Albans, that he ſet out the beginning of this month upon the expedition which has unhappily turned out ſo fatal to his peace. Colonel ***, a gentleman too well known for his gallantries among the ladies to need the initial letter of his name, was to be of his lordſhip's party; and though my lord had two ſets of horſes of his own, yet for certain reaſons which may hereafter be gueſſed at, he hired a coach and ſix at Tubbs's, and ſet out on the Tueſday for St Albans, with an intention, as was given out, to return the Thurſday following.

I SHOULD have informed my readers, that lady ***, and the young viſcounteſs D——, who was ſaid to have a tendre for the colonel, were to meet them in the viſcounteſs's coach at Barnet at their return home, and that they were all to dine together at the Green Man. It was ſaid, I know, that doctor ***, who is a man of family, was of the ladies party: he had been an intimate acquaintance, and ſome ſay a lover of miſs G——, before her marriage with lord ***. The doctor is a man much

much more famous for his wit and addreſs than his practice; and is thought to be the author of a late extraordinary performance, which, however celebrated, in my humble opinion, reflects more honour on his invention, than either on his knowledge in politics, or his character as a moral man. But I will avoid circumſtances, and be as ſhort as I can.

Doctor ***, though he lives at St. James's end of the town, had been ſeen ſeveral times in that week at Batſon's and Child's coffee houſes, and had drank chocolate with Sir E—— H—— the very Thurſday that lord *** and the colonel were to return from St. Albans to meet lady *** and the viſcounteſs at the Green Man at Barnet. Many people are of opinion that the doctor was not of the party, but that he received his intelligence from one H—y, who had formerly been a ſteward of lord ***. But H—y denies the fact, and lays the whole miſchief on lady ***'s woman, who it ſeems had been houſekeeper to the doctor, when he lived in the ſquare. There are ſtrange reports of the doctor and this woman; but whether ſhe or H—y was the contriver of this villany will appear hereafter. H—y is a man of a very indifferent character, and (I am not afraid of ſaying it) capable of undertaking any miſchief whatſoever.

Lady *** and the viſcounteſs, according to agreement, ſet out Thurſday at one o'clock for Barnet, and came to the Green Man, which was the place appointed for their dining. My lord and the colonel not being arrived, the viſcounteſs recollected that ſhe had an acquaintance in the neighbourhood, at about two miles diſtance, whom ſhe propoſed viſiting in a poſt-chaiſe, under pretence of ſaving her own horſes. As this acquaintance of the viſcounteſs was a ſtranger to lady ***, her

her ladyſhip declined going with her friend, and agreed to amuſe herſelf with a book of novels till her return, or till the arrival of my lord and the colonel, which was every moment expected. The viſcounteſs ſtept immediately into the poſt-chaiſe; and ſoon after, as lady *** was looking out at the window of the inn, ſhe ſaw a coach and ſix drive by very haſtily towards London; and the landlord declares that he ſaw lord ***, and the colonel, and two ladies in the coach, muffled up in cloaks. He alſo declares, that lady *** called out three times for the coach to ſtop, but that no one anſwered, and the coachman drove out of ſight in a few minutes.

I SHOULD have taken notice before, that as ſoon as the viſcounteſs was gone upon her viſit, as lady *** was ſitting at the window next the road, the captain in quarters took great notice of her, and ſaid to the chambermaid, in her ladyſhip's hearing, that he would give up a whole year's pay to paſs the afternoon with ſo fine a creature: upon which lady *** frowned upon him very ſeverely, and began a ſmart converſation with him on his boldneſs and preſumption.

THE viſcounteſs, to the great ſurprize of lady ***, did not return till near ſix in the evening, and ſeemed in great confuſion while ſhe endeavoured to apologize for her abſence. But as lady *** was convinced that her lord was in the coach that drove ſo haſtily towards London, ſhe declared poſitively that ſhe would not ſtir a ſtep from the inn till he returned to fetch her; and inſiſted on the viſcounteſs's going immediately to town to inform him of her reſolution. The viſcounteſs accordingly ſet out; and the captain was ſeen going up ſtairs ſoon after. But whether lord *** returned that night, or whether it was really his lordſhip's coach that paſſed by,